

REMARKS

This document is submitted in response to the Office Action dated March 19, 2007 ("Office Action").

Claims 1-7, 9, 11, 13, and 14 are currently pending. Applicants have cancelled claims 1-7, 9, and 11, and added two groups of new claims, i.e., claims 15-19 and claims 20-24, both of which correspond to original claims 3-7, respectively. In addition, Applicants have amended claims 13 and 14 to correct a typographic error. No new matter has been introduced.

Upon entry of the present amendments, claims 13-24 will be under examination. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider this application in view of the following remarks.

Rejections of Claims 1 and 3-7

The Examiner rejects claims 1 and 3-7 on various grounds, i.e., indefiniteness, anticipation, or obviousness. See the Office Action, pages 2-4, sections 1-6.

Applicants have cancelled the claims at issue, rendering all of the rejections moot.

Objection to Claims 2, 9, and 11

Claims 2, 9, and 11 are objected to as being dependent from rejected claim 1. See the Office Action, page 4, section 7.

Again, Applicants have also cancelled the claims at issue, rendering the objection moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner concludes that claims 13 and 14 cover allowable subject matter. See the Office Action, page 4, section 8.

New Claims

The two groups of new claims, claims 15-19 and claims 20-24, respectively depend from allowed claims 13 and 14. Further, claims 15-19, as well as claims 20-24,

correspond to cancelled claims 3-7, respectively.

Applicants would like to point out that both claims 13 and 14 are novel and non-obvious, as are claims 15-24, each of which depends from either claim 13 or claim 14.

Of note, cancelled claims 3-7 are rejected only for lack-of-novelty and obviousness. In other words, they are deemed as satisfying the other patentability requirements, i.e., those set forth under 35 U.S.C. §§ 101 and 112. As pointed out above, claims 15-19, as well as claims 20-24, correspond to claims 3-7, respectively. It is therefore submitted that these new claims also meet the patentability requirements set forth under 35 U.S.C. §§ 101 and 112.

In view of the above remarks, new claims 15-24 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

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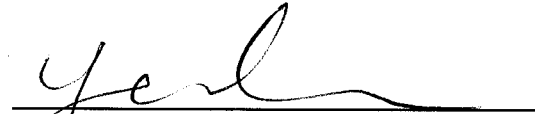
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The Petition for Extension of Time fee in the amount of \$120.00 is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 50-4189, referencing Attorney Docket No. 65901-014001.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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